

MD-CW3101

October 29, 2001

Dry Weather Trend Continues

Dry wether conditions continued across the state last week. These conditions aided farmers harvesting corn and soybeans, giving them an average of **6.6 days suitable for field work** during the week. The lack of rainfall added to the precipitation deficit with all counties remaining below normal for the month. There is concern for the condition of small grain crops and pastures if the dry period extends much longer.

Harvesting of corn and soybeans continued throughout the week with long lines being reported at some elevators. **Corn harvested for grain** is 87 percent complete, progressing 12 percent from the previous week, 14 percent ahead of last year, and 10 percent ahead of the five year average. **Soybean harvest** is 62 percent complete, progressing 20 percent over the previous week, 19 percent ahead of last year and the five year average. Soybean harvest is in full swing, progressing 48 percent over the past three weeks.

Small grain seedings continued with 93 percent of the **barley** crop planted, a 15 percent increase from the previous week and 8 percent ahead of the five year average. The barley crop is rated at 1 percent excellent, 52 percent good, 37 percent fair, 9 percent poor, and 1 percent very poor. **Winter wheat** seeding is 62 percent complete, a 22 percent increase from the previous week and 11 percent ahead of the five year average. The winter wheat crop is rated at 1 percent excellent, 54 percent good, 40 percent fair and 5 percent poor. **Rye** is 70 percent planted, a 13 percent increase over the previous week and 4 percent ahead of the five year average. Rye is rated at 42 percent excellent, 35 percent good, 19 percent fair, and 4 percent poor.

Topsoil and Subsoil moisture levels continue to decrease due to the dry weather. Consequently topsoil rated in adequate supply decreased by 17 percent from the previous week. **Topsoil moisture** is rated 35 percent adequate, 50 percent short, and 15 percent very short. **Subsoil moisture** is 42 percent adequate, 39 percent short, and 19 percent very short.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 28, 2001 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1996-2000
Harvesting Progress:				
Apples	95	91	94	89
Corn, for grain	87	79	73	77
Sorghum	70	58	62	57
Soybeans	62	42	43	43
Crop Progress:				
Soybeans, dropping leaves	98	97	97	96
Tobacco, stripped	35	30	17	12
Small Grain Seeding:				
Barley	93	78	84	85
Winter Wheat	62	40	50	51
Rye	70	57	56	66
Hay Harvested:				
Other hay, 4 th cutting	99	95	83	85
Alfalfa, 4 th cutting	97	95	95	94
Alfalfa, 5 th cutting	68	63	54	50

CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 28, 2001 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Barley	1	9	37	52	1
Winter Wheat	0	5	40	54	1
Rye	0	4	19	35	42
Pasture	3	27	39	29	2

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